Swarajists were allowed to contest the elections with remarkable success. The Swarajist Party was closely-knit and disciplined—a kind of Parliamentary Radical Party.

From 1924 to 1925 Das dominates the scene. A brilliant man, he had succeeded in welding together the growing Left, which was dissatisfied with Gandhian leadership, and the moderates who were inclined to Constitutional actmties. After his release, Gandhi concentrated on the *khadi* campaign, and he was allowed to start the All-India Spinners Association with its *own* funds, while the Swaraj Party was to carry on as an autonomous body. Thus peace was established within the Congress. In 1924 a Unity Conference was held at Delhi which was largely attended—even the Anglican Metropolitan was present—and Gandhi embarked on a three weeks' fast. A formula was devised for promoting unity, but, in spite of the very real success of the Conference, there were meagre practical results.

There were rumours that Das was negotiating with the Government. He seems to have had great hopes of Lord Birkenhead, and a pronouncement of his on India was awaited eagerly, but in June, 1925, Das died, and Birken-head's speech was colourless. Das was a pure politician and his death left no one who would dare dispute the leadership of Gandhi.

Das's death weakened the Swarajist Party and there were some who wished to weaken its policy of undiluted opposition. In the end the Maharashtrians from Poona broke away to form the Responsivist Party,

In 1925 Mr. Vithalbai Patel became President of the Assembly. A brilliant lawyer and a man of somewhat malicious turn of mind, he not only upheld the dignity of the House, but revealed the futility of the dyarchic scheme. The appointment of the "all-white" Simon Commission provoked a storm. It was boycotted and received with black